

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A blind trimming apparatus comprising:
  - a frame;
  - 5 a first pair of opposable cutting dies, at least one of which is moveable relative to the frame between a retracted position, in which the first pair of opposable cutting dies are spaced-apart, and an extended position, in which the first pair of opposable cutting dies are shearingly engageable;
  - a second pair of opposable cutting dies, at least one of which is moveable  
10 relative to the frame between a retracted position, in which the second pair of opposable cutting dies are spaced-apart, and an extended position, in which the second pair of opposable cutting dies are shearingly engageable and spaced from the first pair of opposable cutting dies when the first pair of opposable cutting dies are in the extended position; and
  - 15 a carriage supported by the frame and supporting the second pair of opposable cutting dies, the carriage being moveable with respect to the first pair of opposable cutting dies to vary the distance between the first pair of opposable cutting dies in the extended position and the second pair of opposable cutting dies in the extended position.

2. The blind trimming apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a third pair of opposable cutting dies moveable between a retracted position, in which the third pair of opposable cutting dies are spaced-apart, and an extended position, in which the third pair of opposable cutting dies are shearingly engageable.

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3. The blind trimming apparatus of claim 2, wherein the third pair of opposable cutting dies are spaced from the second pair of opposable cutting dies when the third pair of opposable cutting dies are in the extended position, and wherein the carriage is moveable with respect to the third pair of opposable cutting dies to vary the distance  
10 between the second pair of opposable cutting dies in the extended position and the third pair of opposable cutting dies in the extended position.

4. The blind trimming apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a shuttle moveably connected to the carriage, the shuttle supporting one of the second pair of  
15 opposable cutting dies for movement relative to the carriage.

5. The blind trimming apparatus of claim 4, further comprising a second shuttle pivotably connected to the first shuttle, the second shuttle supporting an other of the second pair of opposable cutting dies for pivoting movement relative to the first  
20 shuttle.

6. The blind trimming apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a frame supporting one of the first pair of opposable cutting dies, and wherein the carriage supports an other of the first pair of opposable cutting dies for movement with the carriage along a  
25 first cutting path.

7. The blind trimming apparatus of claim 6, wherein one of the second pair of opposable cutting dies is pivotable relative to the carriage for movement along a second cutting path.

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8. The blind trimming apparatus of claim 1, wherein the frame defines a guide rail, and wherein the carriage is moveable along the guide rail and includes a removeable guide rail follower.

9. A blind trimming apparatus comprising:

a frame;

a first pair of opposable cutting dies, at least one of which is moveable relative to the frame between a retracted position, in which the first pair of opposable

5 cutting dies are spaced-apart, and an extended position, in which the first pair of opposable cutting dies are shearingly engageable;

a second pair of opposable cutting dies, at least one of which is moveable relative to the frame between a retracted position, in which the second pair of opposable cutting dies are spaced-apart, and an extended position, in which the second pair of

10 opposable cutting dies are shearingly engageable and spaced from the first pair of opposable cutting dies when the first pair of opposable cutting dies are in the extended position; and

a third pair of opposable cutting dies, at least one of which is moveable relative to the frame between a retracted position, in which the third pair of opposable cutting dies are spaced-apart, and an extended position, in which the third pair of

15 opposable cutting dies are shearingly engageable and spaced from the second pair of opposable cutting dies when second pair of opposable cutting dies are in the extended position, the second pair of opposable cutting dies being moveable with respect to the frame to vary the distance between the first pair of opposable cutting dies in the extended

20 position and the second pair of opposable cutting dies in the extended position and being moveable with respect to the frame to vary the distance between the second pair of opposable cutting dies in the extended position and the third pair of opposable cutting dies in the extended position.

10. The blind trimming apparatus of claim 9, further comprising a carriage supporting the second pair of opposable cutting dies, the carriage being moveable with respect to at least one of the first pair of opposable cutting dies to vary the distance between the first pair of opposable cutting dies in the extended position and the second pair of opposable cutting dies in the extended position.

11. The blind trimming apparatus of claim 10, further comprising a shuttle moveably connected to the carriage, the shuttle supporting one of the second pair of opposable cutting dies for movement relative to the carriage.

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12. The blind trimming apparatus of claim 11, further comprising a second shuttle pivotably connected to the first shuttle, the second shuttle supporting an other of the second pair of opposable cutting dies for pivoting movement relative to the first shuttle.

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13. The blind trimming apparatus of claim 10, further comprising a frame supporting one of the first pair of opposable cutting dies, and wherein the carriage supports an other of the first pair of opposable cutting dies for movement with the carriage along a first cutting path.

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14. The blind trimming apparatus of claim 13, wherein one of the second pair of opposable cutting dies is pivotable relative to the carriage for movement along a second cutting path.

15. The blind trimming apparatus of claim 13, wherein the frame defines a guide rail, and wherein the carriage is moveable along the guide rail and includes a removeable guide rail follower.

5           16. A blind trimming apparatus comprising:  
a frame supporting one of a first pair of opposable cutting dies; and  
a carriage supporting a second pair of opposable cutting dies and an other  
of the first pair of opposable cutting dies for sliding movement relative to the frame and  
along a first cutting path, one of the second pair of opposable cutting dies being pivotable  
10 relative to the carriage and being moveable along a second cutting path to engage an other  
of the second pair of opposable cutting dies.

17. The blind trimming apparatus of claim 16, further comprising a second  
carriage slideably connected to the frame and moveable along a third cutting path, the  
15 second carriage being engageable with the one of the second pair of opposable cutting dies  
to move the one of the second pair of opposable cutting dies along the second cutting path.

18. The blind trimming apparatus of claim 17, wherein the frame supports one  
of a third pair of opposable cutting dies and the second carriage supports an other of the  
20 third pair of opposable cutting dies.

19. A method of trimming a blind assembly, the blind assembly including a first blind element and a second blind element, the method comprising:

providing a blind trimming apparatus including a first pair of opposable cutting dies movable between a retracted position and an extended position, a second pair of opposable cutting dies moveable between a retracted position and an extended position,  
5 the second pair of opposable cutting dies being spaced from the first pair of opposable cutting dies when the first pair of opposable cutting dies are in the extended position, and a carriage supporting the second pair of opposable cutting dies;

inserting the first blind element between the first pair of opposable cutting  
10 dies;

moving the carriage to vary the distance between the first pair of opposable cutting dies in the extended position and the second pair of opposable cutting dies in the extended position;

inserting the second blind element between the second pair of opposable  
15 cutting dies;

shearing the first blind element between the first pair of opposable cutting dies; and

shearing the second blind element between the second pair of opposable cutting dies.

20. The method of claim 19, wherein the blinds include a third blind element and the blind trimming apparatus includes a third pair of opposable cutting dies, and the method further comprises:

inserting the third blind element between the third pair of opposable cutting dies;

5 and

shearing the third blind element between the third pair of opposable cutting dies.

21. The method of claim 20, wherein the third pair of opposable cutting dies is moveable between a retracted position and an extended condition, the third pair of  
10 opposable cutting dies being spaced a distance from the second pair of opposable cutting dies when the first pair of opposable cutting dies are in the extended, and the method further comprising moving the carriage with respect to the frame to vary the distance between the second pair of opposable cutting dies in the extended position and the first pair of opposable cutting dies in the extended position.

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